

October - December 2020

LAKE SIDE NEWS

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HARBOR GROVE ESTATES
PICTURE CREDIT: BLANE HARRISON

A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

Summer is over, and schools are back in session, but we are entering a Fall like we've never had before. Because of COVID-19, there has been a tremendous opportunity to connect with other elected officials within Denton County and across North Texas. I was invited to join the North Texas Mayors Economic Recovery Council, hosted by Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Irving Mayor Rick Stopher, and the North Texas Commission. These biweekly Zoom calls have been especially helpful as mayors of large and small cities have connected to share ideas, concerns and successes.



The Town has weathered the pandemic well, with sales tax revenue actually up over 12 % for the year. Our restaurants & businesses are slowly recovering, thanks to all who have continued to support them. Our Economic Development Corporation is providing a second round of dining vouchers for \$25 to encourage dining locally. This means each household will have two opportunities to use dining vouchers, for a total rebate of \$50. When you invest your money in Hickory Creek, you help stimulate our local economy, which helps keep our property tax rate low.

Over the past dozen years, property values in Hickory Creek have risen, and we have seen continued increases this year. Our total value has been certified by Denton County, and we have received tax roll value of approximately \$667 million (up from \$613 million in 2019). Last year, the property tax rate for Hickory Creek was \$0.33042 per \$100 of value. For 2020, our Council once again *lowered our tax rate to 0.319943 per \$100*, adopting what is now called the “*No New Revenue Tax Rate*,” meaning the town will raise approximately the same amount of revenue as in the prior year (with the exception of new properties added to the roll).

In addition to providing all regular town service, our 2020-2021 budget will allow us to address several needs, including the following:

- Fleet service updates will replace several high mileage police and public works vehicles, thereby reducing high maintenance costs
- Update needed computer hardware
- Sealing and overlay of all public asphalt roads
- Updates to our Comprehensive Plan

For years, our Council has received requests to improve access to Sycamore Bend Park, one of the most beautiful parks on Lewisville Lake. The projected cost to improve the road from Turbeville to the park entrance is over \$4 million. Our County Commissioner, Bobbie Mitchell, has stepped up to provide \$2.5 million toward this project. Every time we have asked for Commissioner Mitchell's help, her response has been, “Tell me what you need....it's your tax money.” We are indeed grateful for Commissioner Mitchell, and all our County Commissioners who have dedicated a total of over \$8 million to Hickory Creek (including a joint project with Lake Dallas).

Because we have seen historically low interest rates, the Council has approved the issuance of \$4 million in Certificates of Obligation, in order to facilitate projects over the next five years. A portion of the funds will be used for the Sycamore Bend Road project, infrastructure repairs and improvements, added fire hydrants in several areas, and park amenities identified in our updated Park and Open Space Master Plan. And as I already mentioned, we are able to accomplish this while still lowering our property tax rate.

On behalf of our Council and staff, thank you for the privilege of serving each of you! Great days are ahead!

Best regards,

Lynn Clark

ARROWHEAD PARK

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Simmons built a life preserver station for swimmers and boaters to Arrowhead Park. The station serves as a place to borrow and return life vests while in the park. The station includes signage on how to properly wear a life vest.



Eagle Scout candidate Jackson Moss and team scraped off old paint, power washed, and cleaned up the bathroom facilities, railings and pavilion at Arrowhead Park.

HICKORY CREEK HOMETOWN HERO



DR. LARRY D. GILBERT UPON
GRADUATION AFTER EARNING HIS WINGS,
USAF PILOT SCHOOL

Dr. Larry D. Gilbert graduated from USAF Officer Training School, commissioned as a 2nd Lt, 1970. He successfully earned the aeronautical rating of Pilot, USAF, at Craig AFB, Selma, Alabama in 1971. He served two tours in Viet Nam, flying out of U - Tapao Air Base, Thailand as a Aircraft Commander of a KC - 135 Jet Tanker. Dr. Gilbert earned the Air Medal for Combat & Viet Nam Service Medal while flying two tours 1972- 73 & 1975 in the Viet Nam War. The mission was refueling fighters over enemy territory in North and South Viet Nam, Laos, & Cambodia. Dr. Gilbert received a Honorable Discharge from the USAF with the rank of Captain in 1976.

Dr. Gilbert is the Dean of Instructional Administration— North Central Texas College, Corinth Campus. He is Member Board of Directors Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce and Member Board of Directors Lake Dallas ISD Educational Foundation.

The Town of Hickory Creek is looking to feature some of our hometown heroes. If you are or know of any Veteran living in Hickory Creek, please have them email a short biography and picture (s). Biographies will be featured in future editions of our Lakeside Newsletter. Please contact Kristman.smith@hickorycreek-tx.gov with questions or to submit a biography.



DRIVE THRU DINNER



In lieu of the Lake Cities Independence Day Celebration, the Town of Hickory Creek hosted a Drive Thru Dinner event on July 2, 2020 for residents. The event allowed residents the opportunity to pick up day use or boat ramp passes, register animals, alarm registration and golf cart permits. In-N-Out DONATED 843 burgers, chips, and drinks.



HICKORY CREEK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DINE LOCAL VOUCHERS



Let's Eat Out!

\$25
reimbursement



The Hickory Creek Economic Development Corporation implemented a \$25 dine-out voucher rebate program to help Hickory Creek restaurants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents may bring (or mail) a receipt from any Hickory Creek Restaurant with a minimum purchase of \$25 to town hall. Please include your name and contact number. The deadline for redemption has been extended to December 31, 2020.

An additional \$25 dine out voucher will be mailed to residents in October. Residents may redeem an additional \$25 at any Hickory Creek restaurant listed on the voucher. Again, residents may redeem vouchers by bringing or mailing receipts to town hall. The deadline for redemption for the second voucher is March 30, 2021. Please allow 7—10 business days for processing. Please contact town hall at 940.497.2528 with any questions.



HICKORY CREEK REGISTERS AS A NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT



Hickory Creek, TX – The **National Wildlife Federation** announces that the **Town of Hickory Creek, Texas** is putting out the welcome mat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife by registering as a **Community Wildlife Habitat™** with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF).

By joining this program, Hickory Creek is making a long-term commitment to providing suitable habitat for wildlife and encouraging sustainable gardening practices in the midst of a growing community. These practices include reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, conserving water, planting native plants, removing invasive plants and composting.

Hickory Creek is reaching out to interested citizens who would like to participate voluntarily in the individual **Certified Wildlife Habitat™** program. The town's goal is to certify at least one hundred properties (homes, schools, businesses, parks, places of worship and other locations) by providing the four basic elements needed by wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.



Since 1973, NWF has provided millions of people with the basic guidelines for making their properties more hospitable for wildlife through the Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program. For information, visit NWF's website at www.nwf.org/garden.

In addition, Hickory Creek commits to achieving specific goals in administration, outreach and education as outlined by the NWF. For more information on the Community Wildlife Habitat™ program, go to: www.nwf.org/community.

For information on becoming involved in Hickory Creek's efforts to become a certified Community Wildlife Habitat™, contact any of the following: Dinah Stults, Team Leader (stultsd@juno.com).

The [National Wildlife Federation](http://www.nwf.org) is America's largest conservation organization, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)

KONA ICE



In celebration of the first official school day of in person learning on Tuesday, September 8, Hickory Creek residents were invited to stop by town hall for a free Kona Ice. Over two hundred of our residents, of all ages, came to share in this sweet treat! We hope your 2020-2021 school year has gotten off to a great start!

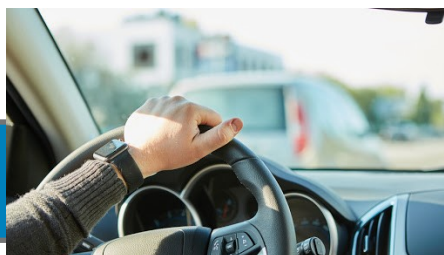


DRIVE WITH REASON THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Pretty soon we are going to “fall back,” get that extra hour of sleep, and see night fall a lot earlier than normal. Did you know that by law tail lamps and headlamps must be illuminated thirty minutes after sunset and stay illuminated till thirty minutes prior to sunrise. Fail to comply with state law regarding your lights could result in an issuance of a citation.

Driving without lights when required is considered a moving violation, so it could result in a conviction being reported on your driving record. If you wish to keep this citation off your record you can either complete a defensive driving course or a deferred disposition. As long as you complete the terms of deferred or defensive driving the citation will not be reported to Texas Department of Public Safety as a conviction.

Night driving can be difficult with the oncoming headlights and reflective signs, so always leave more space from the car in front of you. This will not only create more time for you see what is ahead of you, but will also allow you to prepare for anything that may happen.



WINTERY WEATHER

Every winter, on days with freezing temperatures, multiple complaints are received about water from sprinkler systems and other sources creating icy conditions around town. The Town of Hickory Creek's Drought and Water Usage Plan States:

“A person commits an offense if he knowingly or recklessly irrigates, waters, or causes or permits the irrigation or watering of a lawn or landscape located on premises owned, leased, or managed by the person in a manner that causes....the formation of ice or any other hazardous condition.”

If you have a sprinkler system, disable the system anytime the forecast calls for freezing temperatures or install a rain/freeze sensor to prevent future problems. Also, eliminate any other ways that ice may form and create a hazard. Violations can result in the issuance of citations.



REMINDER: JUVENILE CURFEW

The Hickory Creek Police Department would like to remind residents of the juvenile curfew (ref. Sec. 8.07.031, Town of Hickory Creek Code of Ordinances).

WHO IS CONSIDERED A JUVENILE?

Any person under 17 years of age.

WHAT DOES THE ORDINANCE SAY?

The ordinance states “*a minor commits an offense if he or she remains in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the town limits during curfew hours.*” The curfew hours are, year-round:

11:00 p.m. on any Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday until 6:00 a.m. of the follow (ing) day;
12:01 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. on any Saturday or Sunday.

*according to the ordinance, a parent/guardian of said minor, along with the owner, operator, or employee of any establishment within the town limits commits an offense if he or she knowingly permits, or by insufficient control, allows the minor to remain in any public place or on the premises of any establishment during curfew hours.

WHAT IS A “PUBLIC PLACE”?

“*Any place to which the public or a substantial group of the public has access, and includes but is not limited to streets, highways, the common areas of schools, the common areas of greenbelts in housing developments, hospitals, apartment houses, office buildings, transport facilities and shops*”



JUVENILE CURFEW REMINDER CONTINUED



REMINDER: JUVENILE CURFEW CONTINUED

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS?

YES. There are several exceptions to the juvenile curfew ordinance.

- The minor was accompanied by the minor's parent or guardian.
- The minor was on an errand at the direction of the minor's parent or guardian, without any detour or stop.
- The minor was in a motor vehicle involved in interstate travel.
- The minor was engaged in an employment activity, or going to or returning home from an employment activity, without any detour or stop.
- The minor was involved in an emergency.
- The minor was on the sidewalk abutting the minor's residence, or abutting the residence of a next-door neighbor, if the neighbor did not complain to the police department about the minor's presence.
- The minor was attending an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the town, a civic organization, or another similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor, or going to or returning home from, without any detour or stop, an official school, religious, or other recreational activity supervised by adults and sponsored by the town, a civic organization, or other similar entity that takes responsibility for the minor.
- The minor was exercising First Amendment rights protected by the United States Constitution, such as the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly.
- The minor was married or has been married or had disabilities of minority removed in accordance with chapter 31 of the Texas Family code.
- The minor was accompanied by an adult designated by his or her parent or guardian.

**The above is a shortened version of the ordinance.
To read the full ordinance, follow the QR code below:**



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR HICKORY CREEK POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!



DRIVE THRU TREE LIGHTING

Town of Hickory Creek

COME DRIVE THRU TO SEE SANTA AND OTHER
HOLIDAY CHARACTERS AT TOWN HALL

DEC
11

6 PM UNTIL 8 PM

**NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

HICKORY CREEK TOWN HALL 1075 RONALD REAGAN AVENUE

Storm Drains

The next time you are taking care of your yard, remember to keep yard debris out of the storm drains. Storm Drains are designed to carry rain water away from our streets and into the waterways. Here are some helpful tips to help keep the storm drains clean.

DON'T OVERWATER YOUR LAWN. Much of the water applied to lawns and gardens is never absorbed by plants. Water applied too rapidly is lost as runoff, which may carry polluting fertilizers and pesticides into our lake.

USE THE CORRECT AMOUNT OF FERTILIZER, MORE ISN'T BETTER.

Costly synthetic fertilizers and pesticides are applied to compensate for the loss of nutrients and protection once provided by organic debris and rich soil life. As your soil loses its organic matter, it allows more of these chemicals to run off and wash through it – contributing to the pollution of lakes, streams, and underground water. Instead, use a “soil amendment” or make your own compost.

BAG YOUR LAWN WASTE AND LEAVE IT ON THE CURB FOR PICK UP.

Sweep up clippings and fertilizer from paved surfaces and dispose of them properly. Rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street and gutter. You can also collect leaves and grass clippings for mulching and composting. Yard waste will be collected as Bulk Trash on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Contact Republic Waste at 972.316.0789 for information on collection procedures.



DO NOT THROW TRASH OR DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS IN STORM DRAINS. Remember, what goes onto the storm drain come out in the lake.

MOW THE TOP 1/3 OF YOUR LAWN AND LEAVE THE GRASS CLIPPINGS ON THE LAWN.

Leave grass clippings on the lawn to decompose into the soil. Leaving lawn clippings on the lawn provides about 2 pounds of nutrients per 1,000 square feet of lawn per year, along with the perfect balance of essential nutrients that are not in most commercial fertilizers. Remember, town ordinances require lawns to be kept below 12 inches in height. Placing the clippings and other lawn waste in the street is also against town ordinance and can result in citations.

Keep in mind that your yard is a piece of Earth that is directly connected to everyone else's. You can decrease the runoff from lawns carrying topsoil and chemicals into the streams and lakes we rely on for drinking water. You can also reduce erosion, improve water and air quality, and conserve limited resources for generations to come.

ALL THINGS TRASH

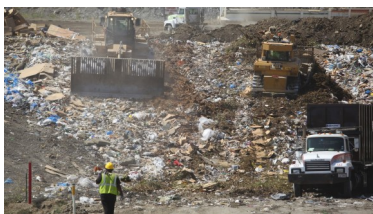


REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for residents over 65. To get signed up, bring your trash bill and drivers license to Town Hall and let us know you're eligible for the discount. The Town will contact Republic Services for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year. Senior discounts previously applied for with Waste Management will carry over to Republic Services.

DFW LANDFILL

Hickory Creek residents are allowed to dispose of one standard pickup truck bed (max 3 cubic yards) of waste per month at the DFW Landfill in Lewisville, Texas (1600 S. Railroad, Lewisville, Texas 75067, Phone: 469.373.4066) at no additional charge. Material must be covered by a tarp by state law. Residents must bring their current bill and driver's license with Hickory Creek address.



UPCOMING BULK TRASH DAYS

OCTOBER 15 NOVEMBER 19

DECEMBER 17 JANUARY 21

As you clean out the medicine cabinet remember Hickory Creek Town Hall has a MedReturn Drug Collection Unit so you can properly dispose of expired and unused medicines. Below is a list of what can and cannot be deposited in the Med Return.

ACCEPTED

Prescriptions
Prescriptions Patches
Prescription Medications
Prescriptions Ointments
Over-the-Counter Medications
Vitamins
Samples
Medications for pets

NOT ACCEPTED

Thermometers
Hydrogen Peroxide
Inhalers
Aerosol Cans
Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids
Needles (Sharps)
Medication from businesses or clinics
Bloody or infectious waste



COMMUNITY REMINDERS

ANIMAL REGISTRATION

Residents are required to register all cats and dogs with Animal Services. There is no charge to register but you must have a valid copy of their rabies vaccination certificate. Residents may register animals at the animal shelter, town hall or online.

ALARM PERMITS

All commercial and residential alarm systems are required to register every January. First time residential alarm systems require a \$50 application fee. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

VETERANS

The Town of Hickory Creek is asking for your help! If you know of any current Hickory Creek resident that has served or is currently serving in the military please email their name and address to events@hickorycreek-tx.gov by October 28, 2020.

BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2021 can now be purchased or picked up at Town Hall, online or at pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. If you purchase the pass at the park pay station you will receive a receipt that requires you to stop by Town Hall during business hours to pick up a permanent sticker. If you purchase passes online, we send the pass to you in the mail. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use pass but you must come by Town Hall to pick up the pass. Boat ramp passes for Hickory Creek residents are \$25. Please place all passes in the front windshield by the inspection sticker so they may easily be seen by officers.

**HICKORY CREEK
TOWN HALL**

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-2528

Monday - Thursday

7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Friday

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1075 Ronald Reagan
Avenue

940-497-3520

Police/Fire Emergency 911

Non Emergency

940-349-1600

**HICKORY CREEK
ANIMAL SHELTER**

970 Main Street

940-349-1600

Monday - Thursday

6:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday

6:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Saturday - Sunday*

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

***FOR ADOPTIONS ONLY**

VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL

Parks & Recreation Board—Third Monday

Planning & Zoning Commission—Third Tuesday

Town Council—Fourth Monday

Economic Development Corporation—Third Thursday

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:00 PM



UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

Wednesday, November 11

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 27

Day After Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day